

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House and Senate met in joint session to count electoral votes.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S35–S76

Measures Submitted: Two resolutions were submitted, as follows: S. Res. 5–6. **Page S66**

Measures Passed:

Majority Party Committee Appointments: Senate agreed to S. Res. 5, making majority party appointments to certain Senate committees for the 109th Congress. **Pages S39–40**

Minority Party Committee Appointments: Senate agreed to S. Res. 6, making minority party appointments to certain Senate committees for the 109th Congress. **Page S40**

Tsunami Relief Contribution Tax Deductibility: Senate passed H.R. 241, to accelerate the income tax benefits for charitable cash contributions for the relief of victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami. **Pages S39, S56–57**

Adjournment Resolution: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 2, providing for a conditional adjournment of the House of Representatives and a conditional recess or adjournment of the Senate. **Page S68**

Objection to Presidential Electoral Vote Certificate From Ohio: By 1 yea to 74 nays (Vote No. 1), the objection to the Presidential electoral vote certificate from the State of Ohio was not sustained. **Pages S41–56**

Messages from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, an Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Russian Federation extending the agreement on Mutual Fisheries Relations of May 31, 1999; referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; which was re-

ferred to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (PM–1)

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Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy. **Pages S68–76**

Messages From the House: **Pages S62–63**

Executive Communications: **Pages S63–66**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S66**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S66–67**

Additional Statements: **Pages S60–62**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S67–68**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—1) **Page S56**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and, in accordance with the provisions of H. Con. Res. 2, adjourned at 5:20 p.m., until 3 p.m., on January 20, 2005. **Page S68**

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Mike Johanns, of Nebraska, to be Secretary of Agriculture.

Prior to this action, committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Mr. Johanns, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Hagel and Nelson (NE), testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

TSUNAMI RELIEF EFFORTS/IRAQ

Committee on Armed Services: on Wednesday, January 5, Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on U.S. Government tsunami relief efforts in the Indian Ocean region, on the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan, and on other significant military issues around the world from Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs; Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN, Commander, U.S. Pacific Command; Lieutenant General James T. Conway, USMC, Director for Operations, J3, and Major General Ronald L. Burgess, Jr., USA, Director for Intelligence, J2, both of The Joint Staff; Evans J. R. Revere, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs; and Ronald L. Schlicher, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Iraq.

NOMINATION

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Carlos M. Gutierrez, of Michigan, to be Secretary of Commerce.

Prior to this action, on Wednesday, January 5, Committee concluded a hearing on the nomination of Mr. Gutierrez, after the nominee, who was intro-

duced by Senators Levin and Stabenow, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Margaret Spellings, of Texas, to be Secretary of Education.

Prior to this action, committee concluded hearings on the nomination of Ms. Spellings, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cornyn, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

NOMINATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Alberto R. Gonzales, of Texas, to be Attorney General of the United States, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Cornyn and Salazar, testified and answered questions in his own behalf. Testimony was also received from Admiral John D. Hutson, USN (Ret.), Franklin Pierce Law Center, Concord, New Hampshire; Harold Hongju Koh, Yale Law School, New Haven, Connecticut; and Douglas A. Johnson, Center of Victims of Torture, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 73 public bills, H.R. 19, 44, 50, 58, 91, 101–107, 130, 153–154, 163, 173, 189, 226–228, 232, 238–289; 2 private bills, H.R. 290–291; and; 20 resolutions, H.J. Res. 9, 14–18; H. Con. Res. 7–8, 10–13, and H. Res. 19, 32–38 were introduced. **Pages H135–138**

Additional Cosponsors:

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Simpson to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H81**

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 32, electing the following Members of the Majority to serve on standing committees of the House of Representatives: Committee on Agriculture: Representative Goodlatte, Chairman. Committee on Appropriations: Representative Lewis (CA), Chairman; Representatives Young (FL), Regula, Rogers (KY), Wolf, Kolbe, Walsh, Taylor (NC), Hobson, Istook, Bonilla, Knollenberg, Kingston, Frelinghuysen,

Wicker, Cunningham, Tiahrt, Wamp, Latham, Northup, Aderholt, Emerson, Granger, Peterson (PA), Goode, Doolittle, LaHood, Sweeney, Sherwood, Weldon (FL), Simpson, Culberson, Kirk, Crenshaw, Rehberg, Carter, and Alexander. Committee on Armed Services: Representative Hunter, Chairman. Committee on Budget: Representative Nussle, Chairman. Committee on Education and the Workforce: Representative Boehner, Chairman. Committee on Energy and Commerce: Representative Barton, Chairman; Representatives Hall, Bilirakis, Upton, Stearns, Gillmor, Deal, Whitfield, Cubin, Shimkus, Wilson (NM), Pickering, Fossella, Blunt, Buyer, Radanovich, Bass, Pitts, Bono, Walden, Terry, Ferguson, Mike Rogers (MI), Otter, Myrick, Sullivan, Murphy, Burgess, and Blackburn. Committee on Financial Services: Representative Oxley, Chairman. Committee on Government Reform: Representative Tom Davis (VA), Chairman. Committee on Homeland Security: Representative Cox, Chairman. Committee on House Administration: Representative Ney, Chairman. Committee on International Relations: Representative Hyde, Chairman. Committee